

7-1998

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Publication Info

Published in *Legacy*, Volume 3, Issue 2, 1998, pages 26-26.

<http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/>

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H.L. Hunley Featured at Seabrook Island

By Christopher Amer

On June 6, 1998 the Seabrook Island Symposium Committee presented their 40th symposium entitled, "The Discovery and Recovery of the CSA *H.L. Hunley*." Featured speakers included, Mr. Warren Lasch, Chairman of the South Carolina *Hunley*

Commission's fundraising organization "Friends of the *Hunley*", myself, and Dr. John Brumgardt, Director of The Charleston Museum. Senator Glenn McConnell, who was scheduled to address the gathering, was unable to attend due to pressing commitments. Ms. Drucie Horton, Seabrook Island Symposium Committee member, kicked off the evening by discussing the *Hunley*'s significance. Mr. Lasch

presented a history of the development and operation of the *Hunley* and placed the submarine within an historical context of the Civil War and submarine development. Since I was co-principal investigator of the 1996 assessment project, I presented a slide-illustrated lecture detailing the results of that project, which was conducted

by the Underwater Archaeology Division of SCIAA, the National Park Service's Submerged Cultural Resource Unit, and the Naval Historical Center. Dr. Brumgardt addressed the future of the *Hunley*, which included possible scenarios for conserving the



Symposium participants discuss an interpretive model of the submarine *H.L. Hunley*. Left to right are John Horton, Warren Lasch, Christopher Amer, and John Brumgardt. (SCIAA photo)

iron-hulled boat and unveiled plans for a *Hunley* wing to be added to the The Charleston Museum. Following the presentations, Seabrook resident Mr. John Horton moderated an audience discussion period, which included numerous questions from the audience, many of whom are retired professionals.

Earlier this Spring, the South Carolina *Hunley* Commission announced its decision that The Charleston Museum would conserve, curate, and display the ill-fated submarine. In response to this, Dr. John Brumgardt, Director of The Charleston Museum, Mr. Glenn Keyes, Architect, and Dr. Jonathan Leader traveled to Maryland in April to visit the new Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum Conser-

vation Facility. Dr. Robert Neyland, Naval Historical Center, met the group at the airport and ferried them to the laboratory. Ms. Betty Seifert, Chief Conservator, then spent several hours leading the tour and gave a detailed explanation of the facility's planning and operation. The state-of-the-art facility is very interesting and incorporates design elements that may have a direct bearing on the Charles-

ton Museum Facility to be designed.

SCIAA staff Mr. Jim Spirek, myself, Dr. Jonathan Leader, and Mr. Steve Smith continue to provide public lectures on the *Hunley* to organizations like the Sons of Confederate Veterans, citizen groups like the Civitans and Rotary, and at professional conferences.